

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 04239 211321Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8500

S E C R E T PRETORIA 4239

NODIS CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PARM, SF

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE SOUTH AFRICAN WEAPONS PROGRAM

REF: (A) STATE 198014, (B) PRETORIA 4238,

1. BRAND FOURIE ADVISES THAT THE PRIME MINISTER AND FON MIN
BOTH HAVE AUTHORIZED HIM TO RESPOND TO OUR REQUESTS FOR ASSURANCES
AS FOLLOWS:

A) THE SAG AFFIRMS ALL RPT ALL THREE POINTS REQUESTED IN YESTER-
DAY'S DEMARCHE (I.E. PARAGRAPHS 1(B), (C) AND (D) OF REFTEL A).

B) THE SAG HAS NO RPT NO PROBLEM WITH THE USG REFERRING
PUBLICLY TO THE FIRST AND THIRD AFFIRMATIONS (I.E. PARA-
GRAPHS 1(B) AND (D) OF REFTEL A) BUT WISHES NO RPT NO
PUBLIC REFERENCE TO THE SECOND AFFIRMATION (I.E. PARAGRAPH
1(C) OF REFTEL) SINCE TO ITS KNOWLEDGE THERE HAS BEEN NO
PUBLIC REFERENCE TO THE KALAHARI FACILITY BY NAME BY THE
RUSSIANS OR ANYONE ELSE.

C) IF THERE HAS BEEN A PUBLIC REFERENCE TO THE KALAHARI
FACILITY IT WOULD LIKE TO KNOW DATE AND CIRCUMSTANCES IN ORDER
TO CONSIDER WHETHER TO MAKE THIS AFFIRMATION PUBLIC ALSO.
THE REASON THE SAG IS TAKING THIS POSITION ON MAKING THE SECOND
AFFIRMATION PUBLIC IS THAT IF THE USG WERE TO MAKE THE FIRST
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PAGE 02 PRETOR 04239 211321Z

PUBLIC REFERENCE TO THE KALAHARI FACILITY, IT WOULD BE VIEWED
BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN PUBLIC AS CONCRETE EVIDENCE OF USG SPYING
ON SOUTH AFRICA AND "OPEN UP A HORNET'S NEST".

D) WITH RESPECT TO SOUTH AFRICA ADHERING TO NPT AND PLACING
ALL ITS NUCLEAR FACILITIES UNDER FULL INTERNATIONAL SAFE-
GUARDS, THESE ARE MATTERS WHICH THE SAG WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS

WITH THE EMBASSY AT AN EARLY OPPORTUNITY.

2. FOURIE SAID THAT VORSTER WOULD BE MAKING A PUBLIC ADDRESS ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24. IN THE COURSE OF HIS REMARKS HE WILL MENTION THE FIRST AND THIRD AFFIRMATIONS AND NPT. FOURIE THOUGHT THAT IF BETWEEN NOW AND WEDNESDAY THERE IS A DECISION TO GO PUBLIC ON THE SECOND AFFIRMATION, HE SUPPOSED THE PM MIGHT ALSO WISH TO INCLUDE THIS POINT.

3. ACTION REQUESTED:

A) WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED SOONEST IF THE RUSSIANS HAVE MADE SPECIFIC PUBLIC RPT PUBLIC REFERENCE TO THE KALAHARI FACILITY.

B) I INTEND TO HOLD INITIAL, EXPLORATOR DISCUSSION WITH FOURIE TOMORROW ON NPT-SAFEGUARDS UNLESS I AM INSTRUCTED TO DO OTHERWISE.

C) UNLESS ALREADY SENT, WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING SOONEST TEXT OF WHAT DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID YESTERDAY ABOUT OFFICIAL REQUEST TO SAG REGARDING INTENTIONS TO TEST A NUCLEAR DEVICE. FOURIE SAID THIS HAD UPSET HIS SUPERIORS, BUT HE HAD EXPLAINED THAT USG UNDOUBTEDLY UNDER INTENSE PRESSURE TO SHOW IT WAS DOING SOMETHING AFTER THE SOVIET CHARGES.

D) PLEASE PASS LAGOS FOR YOUNG AND MOOSE, AS WELL AS
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PAGE 03 PRETOR 04239 211321Z

BONN, LONDON, AND PARIS.
BOWDLER

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